



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for October 13, 2016
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

I. Old Business

A.

II. New Business

A. Deb Wilson – The most pressing upcoming event for the Host Committee is the December holiday party. Please discuss possible locations and dates for this annual event. The Unitarian Universalist Church where the party has been booked for the past 2 years is being sold to TDOT. It is uncertain when the move will take place but at this time the church will need to vacate 30 days after signing the contract. There are many variables to this event but I thought an alternative/back-up location might be the safest route. The rental of the church is embarrassingly reasonable and I can put in a reservation request just in case it is available...but need a back up if it is not.

Possible dates for the party could be:

Friday, Dec 9

Saturday, Dec 10

Sunday, Dec 11

Friday, Dec 16

Saturday, Dec 17

Sunday, Dec 18

I will be out of town the first week/weekend in December until the 6th. However, if the first weekend fits everyone's schedule better, I'm sure we can get a volunteer to host the party.

Please let me know your thoughts and what the board decides.

III. Officer and Committee Reports

A. President – Bruce Neville –

B. Vice President – Donell Frank –

C. Secretary- Amanda Booth – sign in; approve Sept 8 minutes

D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – As of today, 10/09/2016, we have a total of \$5415.56 in our accounts and 56 members who paid their 2016 membership dues.

Updates on 501(c)3/TX Tax Exemption Status:

1) I have some exciting news to share with you all. Our Chapter is now a 501(c)3 organization. IRS sent us a determination letter (dated 09/13/2016) indicating that we are now exempt from federal income tax under IRC section 501(c)3 and are classified as public charities. However, we are required to file 990-N annually.

- 2) Our next and final step will be applying for Texas state exemption. I already submitted Form AP-207 and am waiting to hear back from the Comptroller of Public Accounts Office.
- 3) During the transitional period, we have two accounts at Wells Fargo. I will be closing our old account this week and transferring all remaining fund to the new account.

E. Committees

1. Immediate Past President, Olivia Ash –
2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –
 - A. Archivist-Historian, vacant –
 - B. Data Manager, Betty Vermeire, Chair -

F. Advanced Training – Laura Biddle, Chair – Nothing new to add at this time.

G. Volunteer Service Projects – Steve Simeik, Chair –

H. Host – Deb Wilson, Chair – There is nothing of interest to report for the Host Committee. I am in weekly contact with Bob Brick of the 2016 TMN Class regarding refreshments and send out weekly reminders to those providing items. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the October Board and Chapter meeting due to a family conflict.

I. Communication and Outreach – Olivia Ash, Chair –

1. Webmaster – Carol Henrichs –
2. Field Trip Coordinator -

J. New Class Training – Mary Dabney Wilson, Chair –

K. New Class Representative, Denise Kieso –

L. Youth Programs – Jackie Girouard, Chair –

M. Program, Donell Frank – Fifteen people attended Carol's Photography workshop on Saturday October 8th. We had a lot of fun and Carol did a fantastic job presenting information to all levels of users. If you missed the workshop you can sign up for the same class at the TMN State Meeting on October 29-31.

Updates on Butterflies in the Brazos volunteer opportunity:

1. We had a butterfly planting community event on Sunday October 9th at Bee Creek Park with over 100 people who showed up. Jim Balthrop, Michael Stecher and me were there to represent TMN. I donated about 15 plants with many other people donating numerous other plants and all were planted in the raised beds and the 3 new beds that were established. Go take stroll out at Bee Creek and look at our hard work.
2. There is also an iNaturalist project that has been set up for Bee Creek park. I'm also working on setting up a Butterflies in the Brazos project as well on iNaturalist. If Betty would be so kind to help me with this.
3. Gabbard Park has been chosen as our contribution to the Butterflies in the Brazos project. We need to decide on how big we want our garden to be and what we need to begin building the bed. I will bring the forms to fill out to submit to the City of College Station. Waiting to hear back from David on where the water source is in the park to decide on the placement of the bed.
4. Need to set up a volunteer opportunity on VMS for Butterflies in the Brazos to submit hours. Also AT for the photography workshop.

Upcoming Events in October:

Speakers: October: Marsha May, TPWD, H.R. 5650, Restoring America's Wildlife Act and Teaming with Wildlife

November: Dr. Timothy Birdsong, TPWD, Texas Native Fish Conservation Areas

- 1. Youth Programs, vacant –
- 2. Field Trip Coordinator, vacant -
- N. Agrilife Advisor, Dusty Tittle –
- O. Advisor, Heather Prestridge –

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

- 1. **TMN Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
October 13, November 10
- 2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
October 13 - Marsha May, TPWD, H.R. 5650, Restoring America's Wildlife Act and Teaming with Wildlife, November 10 - Dr. Timothy Birdsong, TPWD, Texas Native Fish Conservation Areas
- 3. **Garden project at the City of College Station Community Services bldg** (1207 Texas Avenue.) Join Cheryl Lewis **on a Saturday** that works for you. 571-6448
- 4. Brazos County Health Department looking for committed volunteers to **host a Mosquito Ovitrap in their yard for a long term baseline study of Aedes mosquitoes** in BCS (V approved)
- 5. **City of College Station Stream Team Project.** We will be monitoring water quality in three city sites in College Station and submitting our data to the City and Texas Stream Team. If you already completed Stream Team water sampling trainings and are interested to help, please contact the team leader directly. If you did not have the trainings, you are welcome to come and see what we do and then get trained. Only trained volunteers received volunteer hours for this project.
Site #1- Bee Creek near College Station Cemetery
Team leader: Kim Roese (kimir77845@yahoo.com)
Sampling will be done every 2nd Sunday at **4:00 pm** and the upcoming sampling will be on **11/13**
Site #2- Wolf Pen Creek Tributary
Team leader: Steve Simcik (steve.simcik@blinn.edu)
Sampling will be done every 2nd Saturday at **9:00 am** and the upcoming sampling will be on **11/12**
Site #3- Bee Creek at Brison Park
Team leader: Jackie Girouard (jackiegir@gmail.com)
Sampling will be done every 2nd Sunday at **9:00 am** and the upcoming sampling will be on **11/13**
- 6. **2016 BVTMN Training Class hosts**, Sept. 6 – Nov. 15, 2016 (V approved)
- 7. **2016 Prairies and Pollinators Month** - all the activities on the prairie Oct 7 - Nov 12 in greater Houston. Some events qualify for AT – contact Laura Biddle for what qualifies.
- 8. **Trash pick up at Gabbard and Brison Parks on 11/19, from 8:00 to 10:00 am.** This project is approved for volunteer hours and you will receive one hour plus travel time for this project.
- 9. **Growing Up WILD Workshop**, November 19, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, Biodiversity Research & Teaching Collections (AT approved)
- 10. **Master Naturalist 17th Annual Meeting, October 21-23**, LaTorretta, Lake Conroe